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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

DAN GRANT, DIRECTOR

# ILLINOIS VETERANS' BENEFITS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

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## HEALTH CARE

### Illinois Warrior Assistance Program:

This program provides confidential assistance for Illinois veterans as they transition back to their everyday lives after serving our country. The helpline is available 24-hours a day at 866-554-IWAP (4927) Help is available for veterans with symptoms associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and to provide Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) screenings.

### Veterans Care Program:

Provides affordable, comprehensive health care to Illinois' uninsured veterans. Call the agency to apply for the program.

## AUTOMOBILES

### Disabled Veterans License Plates and Parking:

Disabled Veteran License Plates may be issued at no cost for the first set of plates to any U.S. Armed Forces Veteran if (1) the veteran holds proof of a service-connected disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (2) a licensed physician has certified that because of the service-connected disability the veteran qualifies for the issuance of a disabled placard or plate.

### Special License Plates:

Upon establishing proof of eligibility to entitlement, special registration plates are available without fee. Military Retirees and Armed Forces Reserves and National Guard soldiers are eligible for registration plates for vehicles of the first or second division upon establishing proof of eligibility and payment of a registration fee. A universal veteran's license plate is also available. A decal applicable to the veteran's service record may be affixed to the license plate and must be purchased from the State Headquarters of the American Legion, P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, Illinois, 61701.

## CAMPING, FISHING & HUNTING

### Camping & Admission Fees:

Eligible Veterans, all former Prisoners of War, and immediate family when accompanied by the Veteran, are exempt from camping and admission fees at parks under the control of the



Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Veteran must be an Illinois resident. Apply at your nearest veteran service office.

**Hunting and Fishing Privileges:**

Free fishing and hunting licenses are issued for disabled veterans who are receiving 10 percent or greater service-connected compensation, or total disability pension benefits. The Veteran may obtain this license from the IDVA by providing disability documentation that is no more than one year old. To acquire a permit, contact your local service office.

## **BONUSES**

**World War II:**

A bonus of \$10 per month for domestic service and \$15 per month for Foreign Service is payable to Illinoisans who served on active duty between September 16, 1940 and September 3, 1945, and received an honorable discharge. Survivors are entitled to a benefit of \$900 if the veteran's death was service-connected and within the specified period.

**Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Conflict Bonus:**

A \$100 bonus is payable for service during one of the following periods:

Korea - June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1953

Vietnam - January 1, 1961 - March 28, 1973

Vietnam Frequent Wind - April 29, 30, 1975

Persian Gulf - August 2, 1990 - November 30, 1995

Global War on Terrorism on or after September 11, 2001 to present. The claimant must also be in receipt of one of the following medals: Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam or the Southwest Asia Service Medal; and have been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service and have received an Honorable Discharge. (Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Persian Gulf may apply)

Survivors are entitled to a payment of \$1000, if veteran's death is service-connected or the direct result of service-connected disabilities incurred in the period specified.

**POW Compensation:**

Persons on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or employed by the United States Government on, or after, January 1, 1961,

who were residents of Illinois 12 months prior to entry, and who were taken and held prisoner by hostile forces in Southwest Asia, are entitled to \$50 for each month or portion thereof while being held captive.

#### **Line of Duty Compensation:**

This is a benefit administered by the Illinois Court of Claims. It provides approximately \$300,000 for surviving next of kin of Illinois service members killed in the line of duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

#### **Vietnam Survivors' Compensation:**

Survivors are entitled to a payment of \$1,000 if the Veteran's death is service connected or the direct result of service connected disabilities incurred in the period specified. A separate application is required.

#### **The Illinois Military Family Relief Fund**

The Illinois Military Family Relief Fund (IMFRF) provides monetary grants to Illinois National Guard members and Illinois residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Components and their families who were called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. IMFRF grants are intended to help Service Members and their families defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services and other expenses that become difficult to afford when a wage earner has temporarily left civilian employment to be placed on active military duty. The fund also provides for those wounded in combat.

## **BURIAL BENEFITS**

#### **Cartage and Erection Fees:**

When the federal government has furnished a headstone or marker, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs shall pay the allowable reimbursement amount for the setting of such marker within Illinois.

#### **Graves Registration:**

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs shall maintain a card file Roll of Honor of all veterans buried in the State of Illinois. Every person, firm or corporation owning or controlling any cemetery or burial place in this State is required to keep a permanent record of the burial of each U.S. war veteran or memorial marker erected for this purpose.



### **Indigent Veterans:**

The county Veterans Assistance Commission shall provide burial for any honorably discharged indigent veteran, or their mothers, fathers, spouse or surviving spouse, or minor children without sufficient means to defray the funeral expenses. The expense of such burial shall not exceed the sum of \$600.00.

## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Educational Opportunities for Children (10-18 Yrs):**

Financial aid is provided annually for each child between the ages of 10 and 18 years of a veteran who died or became totally disabled as a result of service in the Armed Forces during World War I, or II, the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts or beginning February 1, 1955, until such individuals are no longer eligible for induction under the Universal Military Training and Service Act. Attendance means a state educational institution of elementary grade, a high school or Business College, vocational training school or other educational institution.

### **MIA/POW Scholarship:**

Dependents of a veteran who has been declared by the Department of Defense or U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to be a prisoner of war; missing-in-action; to have died as the result of a service-connected disability; or be permanently disabled from service-connected causes with 100% disability; and, who was an Illinois resident or was an Illinois resident within six months of entering service may be eligible for the scholarship. Eligible dependents are entitled to full payment of tuition and certain fees to any state supported Illinois institution of higher learning consisting of the equivalent of four (4) calendar years of full-time enrollment including summer terms (i.e., 120 points).

### **State Approving Agency for Veterans Education:**

Approves training for veterans in the areas of higher education, apprenticeship training, vocational training, on the job training, license and certification, tests and entrepreneurship programs covered under the G.I. Bill.

### **Illinois Veteran Grant:**

The Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program pays tuition and certain fees at all Illinois state-supported colleges and universities.

Applications and additional information are available from field offices of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, college financial aid offices, or Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, 60015, telephone 847/948-8550 or 800/899-ISAC.

### **Illinois National Guard Grant:**

Any enlisted person, Lieutenant, or Captain with at least one (1) year service in the Illinois Army/Air National Guard may participate. Available for eight (8) semesters or twelve (12) quarters of full-time or part-time undergraduate study or graduate study at any Illinois state-controlled university or community college. Recipient is entitled to payment of tuition and certain fees. Applications and information on the scholarship may be obtained from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, Illinois, 60015, telephone 847/948-8550 or 800/899-ISAC.

### **Troops to Teachers:**

Troops to Teachers is a nation-wide transition program designed to help eligible current and former service members become public school teachers. The program offers advisement on certification requirements, money to pay for teacher certification or commitment to a high-needs school, and a referral to hiring school districts.

### **Honorary Scholarships:**

Each county in the state shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship in the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of veterans of WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam Conflict periods, the Gulf War and the War on Terror with preference being given to the children of deceased and disabled veterans. Details may be obtained from the University or College's Financial Aid Office.

### **State Veterans Employment Preference:**

Preference is given in Central Management Services entrance examinations to honorably discharged veterans who served in times of hostilities and peacetime.

### **Jobs for Vets:**

The Department of Employment Security/Illinois Job Service provides a trained "Veterans Representative" to help you get the training and job you need. In cooperation with the Department of Employment Security, an electronic statewide job search information



system is used, describing in excess of 8,000 job titles. The Department of Human Services provides services for veterans with mental/physical disabilities that assist them in returning to gainful employment. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs have a number of Small Business Administration Loan and Job Training Programs.

### **Tax Exemption:**

This exemption is allowed on the assessed value of real property for which federal funds have been used for the purchase or construction of specially adapted housing for as long as the veteran, or the spouse, or unmarried surviving spouse resides on the property. To apply for this exemption, please contact your local County Assessor's Office.

### **Specially Adapted Housing:**

Assistance is provided for service-connected disabled veterans for the purpose of acquiring and remodeling suitable dwelling units with special fixtures or moveable facilities made necessary by the veteran's permanent and total service-connected disabilities.

### **Illinois Veterans Homes:**

Illinois Veterans with one day or more of service during any wartime period recognized by the US Department of Veterans Affairs as a period of war may qualify. Veterans must have entered military service from the State of Illinois or been a resident for one year prior to applying to an Illinois Veterans' Home. Applicants must pass background checks through the Illinois Department of corrections and the Illinois State Police. Illinois Veterans Homes are located in Quincy, Anna, LaSalle and Manteno with a future Home to be located in Cook County. A spouse, or surviving spouse, may also qualify for admittance to the Quincy Veterans' Home.

### **Prince Home:**

Located in Manteno, Illinois, is a residential therapeutic program for homeless veterans. The program provides services, treatment and support enabling the veterans to regain their independence.

## FIELD OFFICES

ADAMS		217-222-8641
CHAMPAIGN		217-278-3388
CHRISTIAN		217-287-7474
COLES		217-234-4776
COOK #1	DOWNTOWN	312-814-3326
COOK #2	SOUTHSIDE	773-363-9851
COOK #3	NORTHWEST	773-292-7894
COOK #4	CHICAGO HGTS	708-754-6403
COOK #5-A	VA REGIONAL	312-980-4513
COOK #6	BLUE ISLAND	708-396-9840
COOK #7	NORTH RIVERSIDE	708-447-0420
COOK #9	PALATINE	847-485-2772
COOK #10	ORLAND PARK	708-403-2011
COOK #11	Des PLAINES	847-294-4664
DU PAGE #1	WHEATON	630-690-9449
DUPAGE #2	LOMBARD	630-495-9460
EFFINGHAM		217-342-8493
FRANKLIN		618-435-3678
HENRY		309-852-0227
JACKSON		618-684-2966
JEFFERSON		618-246-2910 ext 73404
KANE #1	ELGIN	847-608-0138
KANE #2	AURORA	630-585-5372
KANKAKEE		815-468-6581 ext 230
KNOX		309-343-2510
LAKE		847-689-4153
LA SALLE		815-223-0303 ext 210
LAWRENCE		618-943-6189
LIVINGSTON		815-842-2294
MACON		217-362-6644
MACOUPIN		217-854-6451
MADISON		618-258-9860
MARION		618-548-6929
MCDONOUGH		309-836-2243
MCHENRY		815-338-9292
MCLEAN		309-827-5811
MORGAN		217-245-0551
PEORIA		309-671-3179
ROCK ISLAND		309-793-1460
ST. CLAIR	E. ST. LOUIS	618-583-2065
ST. CLAIR	BELLEVILLE	618-233-5140
SALINE		618-253-2005
SANGAMON		217-782-6645
STEPHENSON		815-233-5092
VERMILION		217-442-1711
WHITESIDE		815-626-2468
WILL		815-730-4334
WILLIAMSON		618-997-3309
WINNEBAGO		815-633-7840